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(54) Title: NUCLEAR TRANSFER WITH DIFFERENTIATED FETAL AND ADULT DONOR CELLS

(57) Abstract

An improved method of nuclear transfer involving the transplantation of donor differentiated cell nuclei into enucleated oocytes of the same species as the donor cell is provided. The resultant nuclear transfer units are useful for multiplication of genotypes and transgenic genotypes by the production of fetuses and offspring, and for production of isogenic CICM cells, including human isogenic embryonic or stem cells. Production of genetically engineered or transgenic mammalian embryos, fetuses and offspring is facilitated by the present method since the differentiated cell source of the donor nuclei can be genetically modified and clonally propagated.

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NUCLEAR TRANSFER WITH DIFFERENTIATED FETAL AND ADULT DONOR CELLS

1. FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to cloning procedures

5 in which cell nuclei derived from differentiated fetal or
adult, mammalian cells are transplanted into enucleated
mammalian oocytes of the same species as the donor nuclei.
The nuclei are reprogrammed to direct the development of
cloned embryos, which can then be transferred into

10 recipient females to produce fetuses and offspring, or
used to produce cultured inner cell mass cells (CICM).

The cloned embryos can also be combined with fertilized
embryos to produce chimeric embryos, fetuses and/or
offspring.

2. BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Methods for deriving embryonic stem (ES) cell lines

in vitro from early preimplantation mouse embryos are well

known. (See, e.g., Evans et al., Nature, 29:154-156

(1981); Martin, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci., USA, 78:7634-7638

20 (1981)). ES cells can be passaged in an undifferentiated

state, provided that a feeder layer of fibroblast cells

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(Evans et al., Id.) or a differentiation inhibiting source (Smith et al., Dev. Biol., 121:1-9 (1987)) is present.

ES cells have been previously reported to possess numerous applications. For example, it has been reported that ES cells can be used as an *in vitro* model for differentiation, especially for the study of genes which are involved in the regulation of early development.

Mouse ES cells can give rise to germline chimeras when introduced into preimplantation mouse embryos, thus demonstrating their pluripotency (Bradley et al., Nature, 309:255-256 (1984)).

In view of their ability to transfer their genome to the next generation, ES cells have potential utility for germline manipulation of livestock animals by using ES 15 cells with or without a desired genetic modification.

Moreover, in the case of livestock animals, e.g., ungulates, nuclei from like preimplantation livestock embryos support the development of enucleated oocytes to term (Smith et al., Biol. Reprod., 40:1027-1035 (1989); 20 and Keefer et al., Biol. Reprod., 50:935-939 (1994)).

This is in contrast to nuclei from mouse embryos which beyond the eight-cell stage after transfer reportedly do

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not support the development of enucleated oocytes (Cheong et al, Biol. Reprod., 48:958 (1993)). Therefore, ES cells from livestock animals are highly desirable because they may provide a potential source of totipotent donor nuclei, genetically manipulated or otherwise, for nuclear transfer procedures.

Some research groups have reported the isolation of purportedly pluripotent embryonic cell lines. For example, Notarianni et al., J. Reprod. Fert. Suppl., 10 43:255-260 (1991), reports the establishment of purportedly stable, pluripotent cell lines from pig and sheep blastocysts which exhibit some morphological and growth characteristics similar to that of cells in primary cultures of inner cell masses isolated immunosurgically 15 from sheep blastocysts. Also, Notarianni et al., J. Reprod. Fert. Suppl., 41:51-56 (1990) discloses maintenance and differentiation in culture of putative pluripotential embryonic cell lines from pig blastocysts. Gerfen et al., Anim. Biotech, 6(1):1-14 (1995) discloses 20 the isolation of embryonic cell lines from porcine blastocysts. These cells are stably maintained in mouse

embryonic fibroblast feeder layers without the use of

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conditioned medium, and reportedly differentiate into several different cell types during culture.

Further, Saito et al., Roux's Arch. Dev. Biol.,

201:134-141 (1992) reports cultured, bovine embryonic stem

5 cell-like cell lines which survived three passages, but

were lost after the fourth passage. Handyside et al.,

Roux's Arch. Dev. Biol., 196:185-190 (1987) discloses

culturing of immunosurgically isolated inner cell masses

of sheep embryos under conditions which allow for the

10 isolation of mouse ES cell lines derived from mouse ICMs.

Handyside et al. reports that under such conditions, the

sheep ICMs attach, spread, and develop areas of both ES

cell-like and endoderm-like cells, but that after

prolonged culture only endoderm-like cells are evident.

Recently, Cherny et al., Theriogenology, 41:175

(1994) reported purportedly pluripotent bovine primordial germ cell-derived cell lines maintained in long-term culture. These cells, after approximately seven days in culture, produced ES-like colonies which stained positive for alkaline phosphatase (AP), exhibited the ability to form embryoid bodies, and spontaneously differentiated into at least two different cell types. These cells also

reportedly expressed mRNA for the transcription factors OCT4, OCT6 and HES1, a pattern of homeobox genes which is believed to be expressed by ES cells exclusively.

Also recently, Campbell et al., Nature, 380:64-68

5 (1996) reported the production of live lambs following
nuclear transfer of cultured embryonic disc (ED) cells
from day nine ovine embryos cultured under conditions
which promote the isolation of ES cell lines in the mouse.
The authors concluded that ED cells from day nine ovine
10 embryos are totipotent by nuclear transfer and that
totipotency is maintained in culture.

Van Stekelenburg-Hamers et al., Mol. Reprod. Dev.,

40:444-454 (1995), reported the isolation and

characterization of purportedly permanent cell lines from

15 inner cell mass cells of bovine blastocysts. The authors

isolated and cultured ICMs from 8 or 9 day bovine

blastocysts under different conditions to determine which

feeder cells and culture media are most efficient in

supporting the attachment and outgrowth of bovine ICM

20 cells. They concluded that the attachment and outgrowth

of cultured ICM cells is enhanced by the use of STO (mouse

fibroblast) feeder cells (instead of bovine uterus

epithelial cells) and by the use of charcoal-stripped serum (rather than normal serum) to supplement the culture medium. Van Stekelenburg et al reported, however, that their cell lines resembled epithelial cells more than 5 pluripotent ICM cells.

Smith et al., WO 94/24274, published October 27,

1994, Evans et al, WO 90/03432, published April 5, 1990,
and Wheeler et al, WO 94/26889, published November 24,

1994, report the isolation, selection and propagation of

10 animal stem cells which purportedly may be used to obtain
transgenic animals. Evans et al. also reported the
derivation of purportedly pluripotent embryonic stem cells
from porcine and bovine species which assertedly are
useful for the production of transgenic animals. Further,

15 Wheeler et al, WO 94/26884, published November 24, 1994,
disclosed embryonic stem cells which are assertedly useful
for the manufacture of chimeric and transgenic ungulates.

Thus, based on the foregoing, it is evident that many groups have attempted to produce ES cell lines, e.g.,

20 because of their potential application in the production of cloned or transgenic embryos and in nuclear transplantation.

oocytes.

The use of ungulate inner cell mass (ICM) cells for nuclear transplantation has also been reported. For example, Collas et al., Mol. Reprod. Dev., 38:264-267 (1994) discloses nuclear transplantation of bovine ICMs by 5 microinjection of the lysed donor cells into enucleated mature oocytes. Collas et al. disclosed culturing of embryos in vitro for seven days to produce fifteen blastocysts which, upon transferral into bovine recipients, resulted in four pregnancies and two births. 10 Also, Keefer et al., Biol. Reprod., 50:935-939 (1994), disclosed the use of bovine ICM cells as donor nuclei in nuclear transfer procedures, to produce blastocysts which, upon transplantation into bovine recipients, resulted in several live offspring. Further, Sims et al., Proc. Natl. 15 Acad. Sci., USA, 90:6143-6147 (1993), disclosed the production of calves by transfer of nuclei from short-term in vitro cultured bovine ICM cells into enucleated mature

The production of live lambs following nuclear

20 transfer of cultured embryonic disc cells has also been reported (Campbell et al., Nature, 380:64-68 (1996)).

Still further, the use of bovine pluripotent embryonic

cells in nuclear transfer and the production of chimeric fetuses has been reported (Stice et al., Biol. Reprod., 54:100-110 (1996); Collas et al, Mol. Reprod. Dev., 38:264-267 (1994)). Collas et al demonstrated that granulosa cells (adult cells) could be used in a bovine cloning procedure to produce embryos. However, there was no demonstration of development past early embryonic stages (blastocyst stage). Also, granulosa cells are not easily cultured and are only obtainable from females.

While multiplications of genotypes are possible using embryonic cells as donors, there are problems with current methods. For example, by current methods, embryo cloning can only be done using a limited number of embryonic donor nuclei (less than 100), or with in vitro cell lines. It is unknown whether the embryonic genome encodes a superior genotype until the cloned animal becomes an adult.

cells in culture or try to genetically modify those cells.

There also exist problems in the area of producing

20 transgenic mammals. By current methods, heterologous DNA

is introduced into either early embryos or embryonic cell

lines that differentiate into various cell types in the

fetus and eventually develop into a transgenic animal.

However, many early embryos are required to produce one transgenic animal and, thus, this procedure is very inefficient. Also, there is no simple and efficient

method of selecting for a transgenic embryo before going through the time and expense of putting the embryos into surrogate females. In addition, gene targeting techniques cannot be easily accomplished with early embryo transgenic procedures.

- to select for transgenic cells and perform gene targeting.

 This allows more genetic engineering than is possible with other transgenic techniques. However, embryonic stem cell lines and other embryonic cell lines must be maintained in an undifferentiated state that requires feeder layers and/or the addition of cytokines to media. Even if these precautions are followed, these cells often undergo spontaneous differentiation and cannot be used to produce transgenic offspring by currently available methods.
- 20 Also, some embryonic cell lines have to be propagated in a way that is not conducive to gene targeting procedures.

Therefore, notwithstanding what has previously been reported in the literature, there exists a need for improved methods of cloning mammalian cells.

OBJECTS AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the invention to provide novel and improved methods for producing cloned mammalian cells.

It is a more specific object of the invention to provide a novel method for cloning mammalian cells which involves transplantation of the nucleus of a

10 differentiated mammalian cell into an enucleated oocyte of the same species.

It is another object of the invention to provide a method for multiplying adult mammals having proven genetic superiority or other desirable traits.

It is another object of the invention to provide an improved method for producing genetically engineered or transgenic mammals (i.e., embryos, fetuses, offspring).

It is a more specific object of the invention to provide a method for producing genetically engineered or transgenic mammals by which a desired gene is inserted,

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removed or modified in a differentiated mammalian cell or cell nucleus prior to use of that differentiated cell or cell nucleus for formation of a NT unit.

It is another object of the invention to provide

5 genetically engineered or transgenic mammals (i.e.,
embryos, fetuses, offspring) obtained by transplantation
of the nucleus of a differentiated cell into an enucleated
oocyte of the same species as the differentiated cell.

It is another object of the invention to provide a

10 novel method for producing mammalian CICM cells which

involves transplantation of a nucleus of a differentiated

cell into an enucleated oocyte of the same species as the

differentiated cell.

It is another object of the invention to provide CICM

15 cells produced by transplantation of the nucleus of a

differentiated mammalian cell into an enucleated oocyte of

the same species as the differentiated cell.

It is a more specific object of the invention to provide a method for producing human CICM cells which 20 involves transplantation of nuclei of a human cell, e.g., a human adult cell, into an enucleated human oocyte.

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It is another object of the invention to use such CICM cells for therapy or diagnosis.

It is a specific object of the invention to use such CICM cells, including human and ungulate CICM cells, for 5 treatment or diagnosis of any disease wherein cell, tissue or organ transplantation is therapeutically or diagnostically beneficial. The CICM cells may be used within the same species or across species.

It is another object of the invention to use tissues 10 derived from NT embryos, fetuses or offspring, including human and ungulate tissues, for treatment or diagnosis of any disease wherein cell, tissue or organ transplantation is therapeutically or diagnostically beneficial. tissues may be used within the same species or across 15 species.

It is another specific object of the invention to use the CICM cells produced according to the invention for the production of differentiated cells, tissues or organs.

It is a more specific object of the invention to use 20 the human CICM cells produced according to the invention for the production of differentiated human cells, tissues or organs.

It is another specific object of the invention to use the CICM cells produced according to the invention in vitro, e.g. for study of cell differentiation and for assay purposes, e.g. for drug studies.

It is another object of the invention to provide improved methods of transplantation therapy, comprising the usage of isogenic or syngenic cells, tissues or organs produced from the CICM cells produced according to the invention. Such therapies include by way of example

10 treatment of diseases and injuries including Parkinson's, Huntington's, Alzheimer's, ALS, spinal cord injuries, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, diabetes, liver diseases, heart disease, cartilage replacement, burns, vascular diseases, urinary tract diseases, as well as for the treatment of immune defects, bone marrow transplantation, cancer, among other diseases.

It is another object of the invention to provide

genetically engineered or transgenic CICM cells produced

by inserting, removing or modifying a desired gene in a

20 differentiated mammalian cell or cell nucleus prior to use

of that differentiated cell or cell nucleus for formation

of a NT unit.

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It is another object of the invention to use the transgenic or genetically engineered CICM cells produced according to the invention for gene therapy, in particular for the treatment and/or prevention of the diseases and injuries identified, supra.

It is another object of the invention to use the CICM cells produced according to the invention or transgenic or genetically engineered CICM cells produced according to the invention as nuclear donors for nuclear 10 transplantation.

Thus, in one aspect, the present invention provides a method for cloning a mammal (e.g., embryos, fetuses, offspring). The method comprises:

- (i) inserting a desired differentiated mammalian
 15 cell or cell nucleus into an enucleated mammalian oocyte
 of the same species as the differentiated cell or cell
 nucleus, under conditions suitable for the formation of a
 nuclear transfer (NT) unit;
 - (ii) activating the resultant nuclear transfer unit;
- 20 (iii) culturing said activated nuclear transfer unit until greater than the 2-cell developmental stage; and

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(iv) transferring said cultured NT unit to a host mammal such that the NT unit develops into a fetus.

The cells, tissues and/or organs of the fetus are advantageously used in the area of cell, tissue and/or 5 organ transplantation.

The present invention also includes a method of cloning a genetically engineered or transgenic mammal, by which a desired gene is inserted, removed or modified in the differentiated mammalian cell or cell nucleus prior to insertion of the differentiated mammalian cell or cell nucleus into the enucleated oocyte.

Also provided by the present invention are mammals obtained according to the above method, and offspring of those mammals.

The present invention is preferably used for cloning ungulates.

In another aspect, the present invention provides a method for producing CICM cells. The method comprises:

(i) inserting a desired differentiated mammalian 20 cell or cell nucleus into an enucleated mammalian oocyte of the same species as the differentiated cell or cell nucleus, under conditions suitable for the formation of a nuclear transfer (NT) unit;

- (ii) activating the resultant nuclear transfer unit;
- (iii) culturing said activated nuclear transfer unit
 5 until greater than the 2-cell developmental stage; and
 - (iv) culturing cells obtained from said cultured NT unit to obtain CICM cells.

The CICM cells are advantageously used in the area of cell, tissue and organ transplantation.

10 With the foregoing and other objects, advantages and features of the invention that will become hereinafter apparent, the nature of the invention may be more clearly understood by reference to the following detailed description of the preferred embodiments of the invention 15 and to the appended claims.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides improved procedures for cloning mammals by nuclear transfer or nuclear transplantation. In the subject application, nuclear transfer or nuclear transplantation or NT are used interchangeably.

According to the invention, cell nuclei derived from differentiated fetal or adult, mammalian cells are transplanted into enucleated mammalian oocytes of the same species as the donor nuclei. The nuclei are reprogrammed to direct the development of cloned embryos, which can then be transferred into recipient females to produce fetuses and offspring, or used to produce CICM cells. The cloned embryos can also be combined with fertilized embryos to produce chimeric embryos, fetuses and/or offspring.

Prior art methods have used embryonic cell types in cloning procedures. This includes work by Campbell et al (Nature, 380:64-68, 1996) and Stice et al (Biol. Reprod., 54:100-110, 1996). In both of those studies, embryonic cell lines were derived from embryos of less than 10 days of gestation. In both studies, the cells were maintained on a feeder layer to prevent overt differentiation of the donor cell to be used in the cloning procedure. The present invention uses differentiated cells.

It was unexpected that cloned embryos with differentiated donor nuclei could develop to advanced embryonic and fetal stages. The scientific dogma has been

that only embryonic or undifferentiated cell types could direct this type of development. It was unexpected that a large number of cloned embryos could be produced from these differentiated cell types. Also, the fact that new transgenic embryonic cell lines could be readily derived from transgenic cloned embryos was unexpected.

Thus, according to the present invention,
multiplication of superior genotypes of mammals, including
ungulates, is possible. This will allow the

nultiplication of adult animals with proven genetic superiority or other desirable traits. Progress will be accelerated, for example, in many important ungulate species. By the present invention, there are potentially billions of fetal or adult cells that can be harvested and used in the cloning procedure. This will potentially result in many identical offspring in a short period.

The present invention also allows simplification of transgenic procedures by working with a differentiated cell source that can be clonally propagated. This

20 eliminates the need to maintain the cells in an undifferentiated state, thus, genetic modifications, both random integration and gene targeting, are more easily

accomplished. Also by combining nuclear transfer with the ability to modify and select for these cells in vitro, this procedure is more efficient than previous transgenic embryo techniques. According to the present invention, 5 these cells can be clonally propagated without cytokines, conditioned media and/or feeder layers, further simplifying and facilitating the transgenic procedure. When transfected cells are used in cloning procedures according to the invention, transgenic embryos are 10 produced which can develop into fetuses and offspring. Also, these transgenic cloned embryos can be used to produce CICM cell lines or other embryonic cell lines. Therefore, the present invention eliminates the need to derive and maintain in vitro an undifferentiated cell line 15 that is conducive to genetic engineering techniques. ...

The present invention can also be used to produce

CICM cells, fetuses or offspring which can be used, for

example, in cell, tissue and organ transplantation. By

taking a fetal or adult cell from an animal and using it

in the cloning procedure a variety of cells, tissues and

possibly organs can be obtained from cloned fetuses as

they develop through organogenesis. Cells, tissues, and

organs can be isolated from cloned offspring as well.

This process can provide a source of "materials" for many medical and veterinary therapies including cell and gene therapy. If the cells are transferred back into the

5 animal in which the cells were derived, then immunological rejection is averted. Also, because many cell types can be isolated from these clones, other methodologies such as hematopoietic chimerism can be used to avoid immunological rejection among animals of the same species as well as

Thus, in one aspect, the present invention provides a method for cloning a mammal. In general, the mammal will be produced by a nuclear transfer process comprising the following steps:

- (i) obtaining desired differentiated mammalian cells to be used as a source of donor nuclei;
 - (ii) obtaining oocytes from a mammal of the same species as the cells which are the source of donor nuclei;
 - (iii) enucleating said oocytes;
- cell nucleus into the enucleated oocyte, e.g., by fusion or injection, to form NT units;

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- (v) activating the resultant NT unit;
- (vi) culturing said activated nuclear transfer unit until greater than the 2-cell developmental stage; and
- (vii) transferring said cultured NT unit to a host 5 mammal such that the NT unit develops into a fetus.

The present invention also includes a method of cloning a genetically engineered or transgenic mammal, by which a desired gene is inserted, removed or modified in the differentiated mammalian cell or cell nucleus prior to insertion of the differentiated mammalian cell or cell nucleus into the enucleated oocyte.

Also provided by the present invention are mammals obtained according to the above method, and offspring of those mammals. The present invention is preferably used 15 for cloning ungulates.

The present invention further provides for the use of NT fetuses and NT and chimeric offspring in the area of cell, tissue and organ transplantation.

In another aspect, the present invention provides a 20 method for producing CICM cells. The method comprises:

(i) inserting a desired differentiated mammalian cell or cell nucleus into an enucleated mammalian oocyte

of the same species as the differentiated cell or cell nucleus, under conditions suitable for the formation of a nuclear transfer (NT) unit;

- (ii) activating the resultant nuclear transfer unit;
- (iii) culturing said activated nuclear transfer unit until greater than the 2-cell developmental stage; and
 - (iv) culturing cells obtained from said cultured NT unit to obtain CICM cells.

The CICM cells are advantageously used in the area of

10 cell, tissue and organ transplantation, or in the

production of fetuses or offspring, including transgenic

fetuses or offspring.

Preferably, the NT units will be cultured to a size of at least 2 to 400 cells, preferably 4 to 128 cells, and 15 most preferably to a size of at least about 50 cells.

Nuclear transfer techniques or nuclear transplantation techniques are known in the literature and are described in many of the references cited in the Background of the Invention. See, in particular, Campbell et al, Theriogenology, 43:181 (1995); Collas et al, Mol. Report Dev., 38:264-267 (1994); Keefer et al, Biol. Reprod., 50:935-939 (1994); Sims et al, Proc. Natl. Acad.

Sci., USA, 90:6143-6147 (1993); WO 94/26884; WO 94/24274, and WO 90/03432, which are incorporated by reference in their entirety herein. Also, U.S. Patent Nos. 4,944,384 and 5,057,420 describe procedures for bovine nuclear 5 transplantation.

Differentiated mammalian cells are those cells which are past the early embryonic stage. More particularly, the differentiated cells are those from at least past the embryonic disc stage (day 10 of bovine embryogenesis).

10 The differentiated cells may be derived from ectoderm, mesoderm or endoderm.

Mammalian cells, including human cells, may be obtained by well known methods. Mammalian cells useful in the present invention include, by way of example,

15 epithelial cells, neural cells, epidermal cells, keratinocytes, hematopoietic cells, melanocytes, chondrocytes, lymphocytes (B and T lymphocytes), erythrocytes, macrophages, monocytes, mononuclear cells, fibroblasts, cardiac muscle cells, and other muscle cells, etc. Moreover, the mammalian cells used for nuclear transfer may be obtained from different organs, e.g.,

skin, lung, pancreas, liver, stomach, intestine, heart,

reproductive organs, bladder, kidney, urethra and other urinary organs, etc. These are just examples of suitable donor cells. Suitable donor cells, i.e., cells useful in the subject invention, may be obtained from any cell or organ of the body. This includes all somatic or germ cells.

can be obtained from developing fetuses and adult animals in large quantities. Fibroblast cells are differentiated somewhat and, thus, were previously considered a poor cell type to use in cloning procedures. Importantly, these cells can be easily propagated in vitro with a rapid doubling time and can be clonally propagated for use in gene targeting procedures. Again the present invention is novel because differentiated cell types are used. The present invention is advantageous because the cells can be easily propagated, genetically modified and selected in vitro.

Suitable mammalian sources for oocytes include sheep,

20 cows, pigs, horses, rabbits, guinea pigs, mice, hamsters,

rats, primates, etc. Preferably, the oocytes will be

obtained from ungulates, and most preferably bovine.

Methods for isolation of oocytes are well known in the art. Essentially, this will comprise isolating oocytes from the ovaries or reproductive tract of a mammal, e.g., a bovine. A readily available source of bovine oocytes is slaughterhouse materials.

For the successful use of techniques such as genetic engineering, nuclear transfer and cloning, oocytes must generally be matured in vitro before these cells may be used as recipient cells for nuclear transfer, and before 10 they can be fertilized by the sperm cell to develop into an embryo. This process generally requires collecting immature (prophase I) oocytes from mammalian ovaries, e.g., bovine ovaries obtained at a slaughterhouse, and maturing the oocytes in a maturation medium prior to 15 fertilization or enucleation until the oocyte attains the metaphase II stage, which in the case of bovine oocytes generally occurs about 18-24 hours post-aspiration. For purposes of the present invention, this period of time is known as the "maturation period." As used herein for 20 calculation of time periods, "aspiration" refers to aspiration of the immature oocyte from ovarian follicles.

Additionally, metaphase II stage oocytes, which have been matured in vivo have been successfully used in nuclear transfer techniques. Essentially, mature metaphase II oocytes are collected surgically from either non-superovulated or superovulated cows or heifers 35 to 48 hours past the onset of estrus or past the injection of human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG) or similar hormone.

The stage of maturation of the oocyte at enucleation and nuclear transfer has been reported to be significant

10 to the success of NT methods. (See e.g., Prather et al., Differentiation, 48, 1-8, 1991). In general, successful mammalian embryo cloning practices use the metaphase II stage oocyte as the recipient oocyte because at this stage it is believed that the oocyte can be or is sufficiently

15 "activated" to treat the introduced nucleus as it does a fertilizing sperm. In domestic animals, and especially cattle, the oocyte activation period generally ranges from about 16-52 hours, preferably about 28-42 hours post-aspiration.

For example, immature oocytes may be washed in HEPES buffered hamster embryo culture medium (HECM) as described in Seshagine et al., Biol. Reprod., 40, 544-606, 1989, and

then placed into drops of maturation medium consisting of 50 microliters of tissue culture medium (TCM) 199 containing 10% fetal calf serum which contains appropriate gonadotropins such as luteinizing hormone (LH) and 5 follicle stimulating hormone (FSH), and estradiol under a layer of lightweight paraffin or silicon at 39°C.

After a fixed time maturation period, which ranges from about 10 to 40 hours, and preferably about 16-18 hours, the oocytes will be enucleated. Prior to

10 enucleation the oocytes will preferably be removed and placed in HECM containing 1 milligram per milliliter of hyaluronidase prior to removal of cumulus cells. This may be effected by repeated pipetting through very fine bore pipettes or by vortexing briefly. The stripped oocytes

15 are then screened for polar bodies, and the selected metaphase II oocytes, as determined by the presence of polar bodies, are then used for nuclear transfer.

Enucleation follows.

Enucleation may be effected by known methods, such as 20 described in U.S. Patent No. 4,994,384 which is incorporated by reference herein. For example, metaphase II oocytes are either placed in HECM, optionally

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containing 7.5 micrograms per milliliter cytochalasin B, for immediate enucleation, or may be placed in a suitable medium, for example an embryo culture medium such as CR1aa, plus 10% estrus cow serum, and then enucleated 5 later, preferably not more than 24 hours later, and more preferably 16-18 hours later.

Enucleation may be accomplished microsurgically using a micropipette to remove the polar body and the adjacent cytoplasm. The oocytes may then be screened to identify 10 those of which have been successfully enucleated. This screening may be effected by staining the oocytes with 1 microgram per milliliter 33342 Hoechst dye in HECM, and then viewing the oocytes under ultraviolet irradiation for less than 10 seconds. The oocytes that have been 15 successfully enucleated can then be placed in a suitable culture medium, e.g., CR1aa plus 10% serum.

In the present invention, the recipient oocytes will preferably be enucleated at a time ranging from about 10 hours to about 40 hours after the initiation of *in vitro*20 maturation, more preferably from about 16 hours to about 24 hours after initiation of *in vitro* maturation, and most

preferably about 16-18 hours after initiation of in vitro maturation.

A single mammalian cell of the same species as the enucleated oocyte will then be transferred into the 5 perivitelline space of the enucleated oocyte used to produce the NT unit. The mammalian cell and the enucleated oocyte will be used to produce NT units according to methods known in the art. For example, the cells may be fused by electrofusion. Electrofusion is 10 accomplished by providing a pulse of electricity that is sufficient to cause a transient breakdown of the plasma membrane. This breakdown of the plasma membrane is very short because the membrane reforms rapidly. Thus, if two adjacent membranes are induced to breakdown and upon 15 reformation the lipid bilayers intermingle, small channels will open between the two cells. Due to the thermodynamic instability of such a small opening, it enlarges until the two cells become one. Reference is made to U.S. Patent 4,997,384 by Prather et al., (incorporated by reference in 20 its entirety herein) for a further discussion of this process. A variety of electrofusion media can be used including e.g., sucrose, mannitol, sorbitol and phosphate

buffered solution. Fusion can also be accomplished using Sendai virus as a fusogenic agent (Graham, Wister Inot. Symp. Monogr., 9, 19, 1969).

Also, in some cases (e.g. with small donor nuclei) it 5 may be preferable to inject the nucleus directly into the oocyte rather than using electroporation fusion. Such techniques are disclosed in Collas and Barnes, Mol. Reprod. Dev., 38:264-267 (1994), incorporated by reference in its entirety herein.

Preferably, the mammalian cell and oocyte are electrofused in a 500 μm chamber by application of an electrical pulse of 90-120V for about 15 μsec, about 24 hours after initiation of oocyte maturation. After fusion, the resultant fused NT units are then placed in a suitable medium until activation, e.g., CR1aa medium. Typically activation will be effected shortly thereafter, typically less than 24 hours later, and preferably about 4-9 hours later.

The NT unit may be activated by known methods. Such 20 methods include, e.g., culturing the NT unit at subphysiological temperature, in essence by applying a cold, or actually cool temperature shock to the NT unit. This

may be most conveniently done by culturing the NT unit at room temperature, which is cold relative to the physiological temperature conditions to which embryos are normally exposed.

Alternatively, activation may be achieved by application of known activation agents. For example, penetration of oocytes by sperm during fertilization has been shown to activate prefusion oocytes to yield greater numbers of viable pregnancies and multiple genetically identical calves after nuclear transfer. Also, treatments such as electrical and chemical shock may be used to activate NT embryos after fusion. Suitable oocyte activation methods are the subject of U.S. Patent No. 5,496,720, to Susko-Parrish et al., herein incorporated by reference in its entirety.

Additionally, activation may be effected by simultaneously or sequentially:

- (i) increasing levels of divalent cations in the oocyte, and
- (ii) reducing phosphorylation of cellular proteins in the oocyte.

This will generally be effected by introducing divalent cations into the oocyte cytoplasm, e.g., magnesium, strontium, barium or calcium, e.g., in the form of an ionophore. Other methods of increasing divalent cation levels include the use of electric shock, treatment with ethanol and treatment with caged chelators.

Phosphorylation may be reduced by known methods,
e.g., by the addition of kinase inhibitors, e.g., serinethreonine kinase inhibitors, such as 6-dimethylaminopurine, staurosporine, 2-aminopurine, and
sphingosine.

Alternatively, phosphorylation of cellular proteins may be inhibited by introduction of a phosphatase into the oocyte, e.g., phosphatase 2A and phosphatase 2B.

In one embodiment, NT activation is effected by briefly exposing the fused NT unit to a TL-HEPES medium containing 5μM ionomycin and 1 mg/ml BSA, followed by washing in TL-HEPES containing 30 mg/ml BSA within about 24 hours after fusion, and preferably about 4 to 9 hours after fusion.

The activated NT units may then be cultured in a suitable in vitro culture medium until the generation of

CICM cells and cell colonies. Culture media suitable for culturing and maturation of embryos are well known in the art. Examples of known media, which may be used for bovine embryo culture and maintenance, include Ham's F-10 + 10% fetal calf serum (FCS), Tissue Culture Medium-199 (TCM-199) + 10% fetal calf serum, Tyrodes-Albumin-Lactate-Pyruvate (TALP), Dulbecco's Phosphate Buffered Saline (PBS), Eagle's and Whitten's media. One of the most common media used for the collection and maturation of

- 10 oocytes is TCM-199, and 1 to 20% serum supplement including fetal calf serum, newborn serum, estrual cow serum, lamb serum or steer serum. A preferred maintenance medium includes TCM-199 with Earl salts, 10% fetal calf serum, 0.2 mM Na pyruvate and 50 μ g/ml gentamicin
- 15 sulphate. Any of the above may also involve co-culture with a variety of cell types such as granulosa cells, oviduct cells, BRL cells and uterine cells and STO cells.

Another maintenance medium is described in U.S.

Patent 5,096,822 to Rosenkrans, Jr. et al., which is

20 incorporated herein by reference. This embryo medium,

named CR1, contains the nutritional substances necessary

to support an embryo.

CR1 contains hemicalcium L-lactate in amounts ranging from 1.0 mM to 10 mM, preferably 1.0 mM to 5.0 mM.

Hemicalcium L-lactate is L-lactate with a hemicalcium salt incorporated thereon. Hemicalcium L-lactate is

5 significant in that a single component satisfies two major requirements in the culture medium: (i) the calcium requirement necessary for compaction and cytoskeleton arrangement; and (ii) the lactate requirement necessary for metabolism and electron transport. Hemicalcium

10 L-lactate also serves as valuable mineral and energy source for the medium necessary for viability of the embryos.

Advantageously, CR1 medium does not contain serum, such as fetal calf serum, and does not require the use of a co-culture of animal cells or other biological media, i.e., media comprising animal cells such as oviductal cells. Biological media can sometimes be disadvantageous in that they may contain microorganisms or trace factors which may be harmful to the embryos and which are difficult to detect, characterize and eliminate.

Examples of the main components in CR1 medium include hemicalcium L-lactate, sodium chloride, potassium

chloride, sodium bicarbonate and a minor amount of fattyacid free bovine serum albumin (Sigma A-6003).

Additionally, a defined quantity of essential and nonessential amino acids may be added to the medium. CR1 5 with amino acids is known by the abbreviation "CR1aa."

CR1 medium preferably contains the following components in the following quantities:

sodium chloride - 114.7 mM

potassium chloride - 3.1 mM

10 sodium bicarbonate - 26.2 mM

hemicalcium L-lactate - 5 mM

fatty-acid free BSA - 3 mg/ml

In one embodiment, the activated NT embryos unit are placed in CR1aa medium containing 1.9 mM DMAP for about 4 15 hours followed by a wash in HECM and then cultured in CR1aa containing BSA.

For example, the activated NT units may be transferred to CR1aa culture medium containing 2.0 mM DMAP (Sigma) and cultured under ambient conditions, e.g., about 38.5° C, 5° CO₂ for a suitable time, e.g., about 4 to 5 hours.

Afterward, the cultured NT unit or units are preferably washed and then placed in a suitable media, e.g., CR1aa medium containing 10% FCS and 6 mg/ml contained in well plates which preferably contain a suitable confluent feeder layer. Suitable feeder layers include, by way of example, fibroblasts and epithelial cells, e.g., fibroblasts and uterine epithelial cells derived from ungulates, chicken fibroblasts, murine (e.g., mouse or rat) fibroblasts, STO and SI-m220 feeder cell lines, and BRL cells.

In one embodiment, the feeder cells comprise mouse embryonic fibroblasts. Preparation of a suitable fibroblast feeder layer is described in the example which follows and is well within the skill of the ordinary 15 artisan.

The NT units are cultured on the feeder layer until
the NT units reach a size suitable for transferring to a
recipient female, or for obtaining cells which may be used
to produce CICM cells or cell colonies. Preferably, these
20 NT units will be cultured until at least about 2 to 400
cells, more preferably about 4 to 128 cells, and most
preferably at least about 50 cells. The culturing will be

effected under suitable conditions, i.e., about 38.5°C and 5% CO₂, with the culture medium changed in order to optimize growth typically about every 2-5 days, preferably about every 3 days.

The methods for embryo transfer and recipient animal management in the present invention are standard procedures used in the embryo transfer industry.

Synchronous transfers are important for success of the present invention, i.e., the stage of the NT embryo is in synchrony with the estrus cycle of the recipient female.

This advantage and how to maintain recipients are reviewed in Siedel, G.E., Jr. ("Critical review of embryo transfer procedures with cattle" in Fertilization and Embryonic Development in Vitro (1981) L. Mastroianni, Jr. and J.D.

15 Biggers, ed., Plenum Press, New York, NY, page 323), the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

The present invention can also be used to clone genetically engineered or transgenic mammals. As explained above, the present invention is advantageous in that transgenic procedures can be simplified by working with a differentiated cell source that can be clonally propagated. In particular, the differentiated cells used

for donor nuclei have a desired gene inserted, removed or modified. Those genetically altered, differentiated cells are then used for nuclear transplantation with enucleated oocytes.

Any known method for inserting, deleting or modifying a desired gene from a mammalian cell may be used for altering the differentiated cell to be used as the nuclear donor. These procedures may remove all or part of a gene, and the gene may be heterologous. Included is the technique of homologous recombination, which allows the insertion, deletion or modification of a gene or genes at a specific site or sites in the cell genome.

The present invention can thus be used to provide
adult mammals with desired genotypes. Multiplication of

15 adult ungulates with proven genetic superiority or other
desirable traits is particularly useful, including
transgenic or genetically engineered animals, and chimeric
animals. Furthermore, cell and tissues from the NT fetus,
including transgenic and/or chimeric fetuses, can be used

20 in cell, tissue and organ transplantation for the
treatment of numerous diseases as described below in
connection with the use of CICM cells.

For production of CICM cells and cell lines, after NT units of the desired size are obtained, the cells are mechanically removed from the zone and are then used. This is preferably effected by taking the clump of cells 5 which comprise the NT unit, which typically will contain at least about 50 cells, washing such cells, and plating the cells onto a feeder layer, e.g., irradiated fibroblast Typically, the cells used to obtain the stem cells or cell colonies will be obtained from the inner most 10 portion of the cultured NT unit which is preferably at . least 50 cells in size. However, NT units of smaller or greater cell numbers as well as cells from other portions of the NT unit may also be used to obtain ES cells and The cells are maintained in the feeder cell colonies. 15 layer in a suitable growth medium, e.g., alpha MEM supplemented with 10% FCS and 0.1 mM ß-mercaptoethanol (Sigma) and L-glutamine. The growth medium is changed as often as necessary to optimize

This culturing process results in the formation of CICM cells or cell lines. One skilled in the art can vary the culturing conditions as desired to optimize growth of

growth, e.g., about every 2-3 days.

the particular CICM cells. Also, genetically engineered or transgenic mammalian CICM cells may be produced according to the present invention. That is, the methods described above can be used to produce NT units in which a desired gene or genes have been introduced, or from which all or part of an endogenous gene or genes have been removed or modified. Those genetically engineered or transgenic NT units can then be used to produce genetically engineered or transgenic CICM cells, including 10 human cells.

The resultant CICM cells and cell lines, preferably human CICM cells and cell lines, have numerous therapeutic and diagnostic applications. Most especially, such CICM cells may be used for cell transplantation therapies.

15 Human CICM cells have application in the treatment of numerous disease conditions. Human NT units per se may also be used in the treatment of disease conditions.

In this regard, it is known that mouse embryonic stem
(ES) cells are capable of differentiating into almost any
cell type, e.g., hematopoietic stem cells. Therefore,
human CICM cells produced according to the invention
should possess similar differentiation capacity. The CICM

cells according to the invention will be induced to
differentiate to obtain the desired cell types according
to known methods. For example, the subject human CICM
cells may be induced to differentiate into hematopoietic

5 stem cells, muscle cells, cardiac muscle cells, liver
cells, cartilage cells, epithelial cells, urinary tract
cells, etc., by culturing such cells in differentiation
medium and under conditions which provide for cell
differentiation. Medium and methods which result in the
10 differentiation of CICM cells are known in the art as are
suitable culturing conditions.

For example, Palacios et al, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.,

USA, 92:7530-7537 (1995) teaches the production of

hematopoietic stem cells from an embryonic cell line by

15 subjecting stem cells to an induction procedure comprising

initially culturing aggregates of such cells in a

suspension culture medium lacking retinoic acid followed

by culturing in the same medium containing retinoic acid,

followed by transferral of cell aggregates to a substrate

20 which provides for cell attachment.

Moreover, Pedersen, J. Reprod. Fertil. Dev., 6:543-552 (1994) is a review article which references numerous

articles disclosing methods for in vitro differentiation of embryonic stem cells to produce various differentiated cell types including hematopoietic cells, muscle, cardiac muscle, nerve cells, among others.

5 Further, Bain et al, Dev. Biol., 168:342-357 (1995)
teaches in vitro differentiation of embryonic stem cells
to produce neural cells which possess neuronal properties.
These references are exemplary of reported methods for
obtaining differentiated cells from embryonic or stem

10 cells. These references and in particular the disclosures
therein relating to methods for differentiating embryonic
stem cells are incorporated by reference in their entirety
herein.

Thus, using known methods and culture medium, one

15 skilled in the art may culture the subject CICM cells,

including genetically engineered or transgenic CICM cells,

to obtain desired differentiated cell types, e.g., neural

cells, muscle cells, hematopoietic cells, etc.

The subject CICM cells may be used to obtain any

20 desired differentiated cell type. Therapeutic usages of
such differentiated human cells are unparalleled. For
example, human hematopoietic stem cells may be used in

medical treatments requiring bone marrow transplantation.

Such procedures are used to treat many diseases, e.g.,
late stage cancers such as ovarian cancer and leukemia, as
well as diseases that compromise the immune system, such
5 as AIDS. Hematopoietic stem cells can be obtained, e.g.,
by fusing adult somatic cells of a cancer or AIDS patient,
e.g., epithelial cells or lymphocytes with an enucleated
oocyte, obtaining CICM cells as described above, and
culturing such cells under conditions which favor
10 differentiation, until hematopoietic stem cells are
obtained. Such hematopoietic cells may be used in the
treatment of diseases including cancer and AIDS.

Alternatively, adult somatic cells from a patient with a neurological disorder may be fused with an 15 enucleated oocyte, human CICM cells obtained therefrom, and such cells cultured under differentiation conditions to produce neural cell lines. Specific diseases treatable by transplantation of such human neural cells include, by way of example, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, 20 ALS and cerebral palsy, among others. In the specific case of Parkinson's disease, it has been demonstrated that transplanted fetal brain neural cells make the proper

connections with surrounding cells and produce dopamine.

This can result in long-term reversal of Parkinson's disease symptoms.

The great advantage of the subject invention is that

5 it provides an essentially limitless supply of isogenic or
syngenic human cells suitable for transplantation.

Therefore, it will obviate the significant problem
associated with current transplantation methods, i.e.,
rejection of the transplanted tissue which may occur

10 because of host-vs-graft or graft-vs-host rejection.
Conventionally, rejection is prevented or reduced by the
administration of anti-rejection drugs such as
cyclosporine. However, such drugs have significant
adverse side-effects, e.g., immunosuppression,

15 carcinogenic properties, as well as being very expensive.
The present invention should eliminate, or at least

Other diseases and conditions treatable by isogenic cell therapy include, by way of example, spinal cord injuries, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, diabetes, liver diseases, i.e., hypercholesterolemia, heart diseases, cartilage replacement, burns, foot ulcers,

greatly reduce, the need for anti-rejection drugs.

gastrointestinal diseases, vascular diseases, kidney disease, urinary tract disease, and aging related diseases and conditions.

This methodology can be used to replace defective

5 genes, e.g., defective immune system genes, cystic
fibrosis genes, or to introduce genes which result in the
expression of therapeutically beneficial proteins such as
growth factors, lymphokines, cytokines, enzymes, etc. For
example, the gene encoding brain derived growth factor may

10 be introduced into human CICM cells, the cells
differentiated into neural cells and the cells
transplanted into a Parkinson's patient to retard the loss
of neural cells during such disease.

Previously, cell types transfected with BDNF varied

15 from primary cells to immortalized cell lines, either

neural or non-neural (myoblast and fibroblast) derived

cells. For example, astrocytes have been transfected with

BDNF gene using retroviral vectors, and the cells grafted

into a rat model of Parkinson's disease (Yoshimoto et al.,

20 Brain Research, 691:25-36, (1995)).

This ex vivo therapy reduced Parkinson's-like symptoms in the rats up to 45% 32 days after transfer.

Also, the tyrosine hydroxylase gene has been placed into astrocytes with similar results (Lundberg et al., Develop. Neurol., 139:39-53 (1996) and references cited therein).

However, such ex vivo systems have problems. In

5 particular, retroviral vectors currently used are downregulated in vivo and the transgene is only transiently
expressed (review by Mulligan, Science, 260:926-932
(1993)). Also, such studies used primary cells,
astrocytes, which have finite life span and replicate

10 slowly. Such properties adversely affect the rate of
transfection and impede selection of stably transfected
cells. Moreover, it is almost impossible to propagate a
large population of gene targeted primary cells to be used
in homologous recombination techniques. By contrast, the

15 difficulties associated with retroviral systems should be
eliminated by the use of mammalian CICM cells.

Genes which may be introduced into the subject CICM cells include, by way of example, epidermal growth factor, basic fibroblast growth factor, glial derived neurotrophic growth factor, insulin-like growth factor (I and II), neurotrophin-3, neurotrophin-4/5, ciliary neurotrophic factor, AFT-1, cytokine genes (interleukins, interferons,

colony stimulating factors, tumor necrosis factors (alpha and beta), etc.), genes encoding therapeutic enzymes, etc.

In addition to the use of human CICM cells in cell, tissue and organ transplantation, the present invention

5 also includes the use of non-human cells in the treatment of human diseases. Thus, CICM cells, NT fetuses and NT and chimeric offspring (transgenic or non-transgenic) of any species may be used in the treatment of human disease conditions where cell, tissue or organ transplantation is

10 warranted. In general, CICM cell, fetuses and offspring according to the present invention can be used within the same species (autologous, syngenic or allografts) or across species (xenografts). For example, brain cells from bovine NT fetuses may be used to treat Parkinson's

Also, the subject CICM cells, preferably human cells, may be used as an *in vitro* model of differentiation, in particular for the study of genes which are involved in the regulation of early development. Also,

20 differentiated cell tissues and organs using the subject CICM cells may be used in drug studies.

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Further, the subject CICM cells may be used as nuclear donors for the production of other CICM cells and cell colonies.

In order to more clearly describe the subject 5 invention, the following examples are provided.

EXAMPLE 1

Isolation of primary cultures of bovine and porcine embryonic and adult bovine fibroblast cells.

Primary cultures of bovine and porcine fibroblasts

5 were obtained from fetuses (45 days of pregnancy for
 cattle and 35 days for pig fetuses). The head, liver,
 heart and alimentary tract were aseptically removed, the
 fetuses minced and incubated for 30 minutes at 37°C in
 prewarmed trypsin EDTA solution (0.05% trypsin/0.02% EDTA;

10 GIBCO, Grand Island, NY). Fibroblast cells were plated in
 tissue culture dishes and cultured in alpha-MEM, medium
 (BioWhittaker, Walkersville, MD) supplemented with 10%
 fetal calf serum (FCS) (Hyclone, Logen, UT), penicillin
 (100 IU/ml) and streptomycin (50 µl/ml). The fibroblasts

15 were grown and maintained in a humidified atmosphere with
 5% CO, in air at 37°C.

Adult fibroblast cells were isolated from the lung of a cow (approximately five years of age). Minced lung tissue was incubated overnight at 10°C in trypsin EDTA 20 solution (0.05% trypsin/0.02% EDTA; GIBCO, Grand Island, NY). The following day tissue and any disassociated cells were incubated for one hour at 37°C in prewarmed trypsin

EDTA solution (0.05% trypsin/0.02% EDTA; GIBCO, Grand

Island, NY) and processed through three consecutive washes and trypsin incubations (one hr). Fibroblast cells were plated in tissue culture dishes and cultured in alpha-MEM

5 medium (BioWhittaker, Walkersville, MD) supplemented with 10% fetal calf serum (FCS) (Hyclone, Logen, UT), penicillin (100 IU/ml) and streptomycin (50 μl/ml). The fibroblast cells can be isolated at virtually any time in development, ranging from approximately post embryonic 10 disc stage through adult life of the animal (bovine day 12 to 15 after fertilization to 10 to 15 years of age animals). This procedure can also be used to isolate fibroblasts from other mammals, including mice.

Introduction of a marker gene (foreign heterologous DNA) 15 into embryonic and adult fibroblast cells.

The following electroporation procedure was conducted for both embryonic (cattle and pigs) and adult (cattle) fibroblast cells. Standard microinjection procedures may also be used to introduce heterologous DNA into fibroblast cells, however, in this example electroporation was used because it is an easier procedure.

Culture plates containing propagating fibroblast cells were incubated in trypsin EDTA solution (0.05% trypsin/0.02% EDTA; GIBCO, Grand Island, NY) until the cells were in a single cell suspension. The cells were spun down at 500 x g and re-suspended at 5 million cells per ml with phosphate buffered saline (PBS).

The reporter gene construct contained the cytomegalovirus promoter and the beta-galactosidase, neomycin phosphotransferase fusion gene (beta-GEO). The 10 reporter gene and the cells at 50 μ g/ml final concentration were added to the electroporation chamber. After the electroporation pulse, the fibroblast cells were transferred back into the growth medium (alpha-MEM medium (BioWhittaker, Walkersville, MD) supplemented with 10% 15 fetal calf serum (FCS) (Hyclone, Logen, UT), penicillin (100 IU/ml) and streptomycin (50 μ l/ml)).

The day after electroporation, attached fibroblast cells were selected for stable integration of the reporter gene. G418 (400 μ g/ml) was added to growth medium for 15 days (range: 3 days until the end of the cultured cells' life span). This drug kills any cells without the beta-GEO gene, since they do not express the neo resistance

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gene. At the end of this time, colonies of stable transgenic cells were present. Each colony was propagated independently of each other. Transgenic fibroblast cells were stained with X-gal to observe expression of beta-galactosidase, and confirmed positive for integration using PCR amplification of the beta-GEO gene and run out on an agarose gel.

Use of transgenic fibroblast cells in nuclear transfer procedures to create CICM cell lines and transgenic 10 fetuses

One line of cells (CL-1) derived from one colony of bovine embryonic fibroblast cells was used as donor nuclei in the nuclear transfer (NT) procedure. General NT procedures are described above.

Slaughterhouse oocytes were matured in vitro. The oocytes were stripped of cumulus cells and enucleated with a beveled micropipette at approximately 18 to 20 hrs post maturation (hpm). Enucleation was confirmed in TL-HEPES medium plus Hoechst 33342 (3 μg/ml; Sigma). Individual 20 donor cells (fibroblasts) were then placed in the perivitelline space of the recipient oocyte. The bovine oocyte cytoplasm and the donor nucleus (NT unit) were

fused together using electrofusion techniques. One fusion

pulse consisting of 120 V for 15 $\mu \rm sec$ in a 500 $\mu \rm m$ gap chamber was applied to the NT unit. This occurred at 24 hpm. The NT units were placed in CR1aa medium until 26 to 27 hpm.

The general procedure used to artificially activate oocytes has been described above. NT unit activation was initiated between 26 and 27 hpm. Briefly, NT units were exposed for four min to ionomycin (5 μ M; CalBiochem, La Jolla, CA) in TL-HEPES supplemented with 1 mg/ml BSA and 10 then washed for five min in TL-HEPES supplemented with 30 mg/ml BSA. Throughout the ionomycin treatment, NT units were also exposed to 2 mM DMAP (Sigma). Following the wash, NT units were then transferred into a microdrop of CR1aa culture medium containing 2 mM DMAP (Sigma) and 15 cultured at 38.5°C 5% CO₂ for four to five hrs. The embryos were washed and then placed in CR1aa medium plus 10% FCS and 6 mg/ml BSA in four well plates containing a confluent feeder layer of mouse embryonic fibroblast. NT units were cultured for three more days at 38.5°C and 20 5% CO,. Culture medium was changed every three days until days 5 to 8 after activation. At this time blastocyst stage NT embryos can be used to produce transgenic CICM

(cultured inner cell mass) cell lines or fetuses. The inner cell mass of these NT units can be isolated and plated on a feeder layer. Also, NT units were transferred into recipient females. The pregnancies were aborted at 35 days of gestation. This resulted in two cloned transgenic fetuses having the beta-GEO gene in all tissues checked. Thus, this is a fast and easy method of making transgenic CICM cell lines and fetuses. This procedure is generally conducive to gene targeted CICM cell lines and 10 fetuses.

The table below summarizes the results of these experiments.

donor cell type	n	cleavage (%)	blastocysts (%)	CICM* lines (%)	transgenic fetuses (%)
CL-1 bovine embryonic fibroblast (bGEO)	412	220 (53)	40 (10%)	22 (55%)	
CL-1 bovine embryonic fibroblast (bGEO)	505		46 (9%)		4 ferusest/ 16 embryos (20%)
CICM cell line derived from CL-1 NT embryos	709		5 (0.7%)		

 $[\]star$ 19 lines were positive for beta-GEO, 2 were negative and one line died prior to PCR detection.

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† One fetus was dead and another was slightly retarded in development at 35 days of gestation. Two fetuses recovered at day 38 were normal. All fetuses were confirmed transgenic.

EXAMPLE 2

Chimeriō fetuses derived from transgenic CICM cells. The transgenic CICM cell line was derived originally from a transgenic NT unit (differentiated cell).

A CICM line derived from transgenic NT embryos (a CL-1 cell transferred into an enucleated oocyte) was used to produce chimeric embryo&Oand fetuses. Colonies of transgenic CICM cells were disaggregated either using 1-5 mg/ml pronase or 0.05% trypsin/EDTA combined with mechanical disaggregation methods so that clumps of five or fewer cells were produced. Trypsin or pronase activity was inactivated by passing the cells through multiple washes of 30 to 100% f&Bal calf serum. The disaggregated cells were placed in micromanipulation plates containing TL-HEPES medium. Fertilized embryos were also placed in these plates and micromanipulation tools were used to produce the chimeric embryos. Eight to ten transgenic CICM cells were injected into 8-16 cell stage fertilized embryo80 These embryos were cultured in vitro to the blastocyst stage and then transferred into recipient animals.

A total of 6 blastocyst stage chimeric embryos were nonsurgically transferred into two recipient females. After five weeks of gestation 3 fetuses were recovered. Several tissues of

the three fetuses, including germ cells of the gonad (suggesting germ-line chimeras), were screened by PCR amplification and southern blot hybridization of the amplified product to a beta-galactosidase fragment. Of the three fetuses, two were positive for contribution from the transgenic CICM cells. Both of these fetuses had transgenic CICM contribution to the gonad.

Transgenic NT embryos derived from transgenic CICM cell lines. The transgenic CICM cell line was derived originally from a transgenic NT unit (differentiated cell).

The same transgenic CICM cell lines were used to produce NT embryos. The NT procedures described in Example 1 were used except that CICM cells instead of fibroblast cells were used as the donor cell fused with the enucleated oocyte. Colonies of transgenic CICM cells were disaggregated either using 1-5 mg/ml pronase or 0.05% trypsim#EDTA combined with mechanical disaggregation methods so that clumps of five or fewer cells were produced. Trypsin or pronase activity was inactivated by passing the cells through multiple washes of 30 to 100% fetal calf serum before transferring the cells into enucleated oocytes. Results are reported in Table 1 (third2group). Five blastocyst stage embryos were produced.

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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1. A method of cloning a mammal, comprising:
- (i) inserting a desired differentiated mammalian cell or cell nucleus into an enucleated mammalian oocyte 5 of the same species as the differentiated cell or cell nucleus, under conditions suitable for the formation of a nuclear transfer (NT) unit;
 - (ii) activating the resultant nuclear transfer unit;
- (iii) culturing said activated nuclear transfer unit

10 until greater than the 2-cell developmental stage; and

- (iv) transferring said cultured NT unit to a host mammal such that the NT unit develops into a fetus.
- 2. The method according to claim 1, which further comprises developing the fetus to an offspring.
- 15 3. The method according to claim 1, wherein a desired DNA is inserted, removed or modified in said differentiated mammalian cell or cell nucleus, thereby resulting in the production of a genetically altered NT unit.

- 4. The method according to claim 3, which further comprises developing the fetus to an offspring.
- 5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the differentiated mammalian cell or cell nucleus is derived from mesoderm.
 - 6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the differentiated mammalian cell or cell nucleus is derived from ectoderm.
- The method according to claim 1, wherein the
 differentiated mammalian cell or cell nucleus is derived from endoderm.
 - 8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the differentiated mammalian cell or cell nucleus is a fibroblast cell or cell nucleus.
- 9. The method according to claim 1, wherein the differentiated mammalian cell or cell nucleus is from an ungulate.

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- 10. The method according to claim 9, wherein the ungulate is selected from the group consisting of bovine, ovine, porcine, equine, caprine and buffalo.
- 11. The method according to claim 1, wherein the 5 differentiated mammalian cell or cell nucleus is an adult cell or cell nucleus.
 - 12. The method according to claim 1, wherein the differentiated mammalian cell or cell nucleus is an embryonic or fetal cell or cell nucleus.
- 10 13. The method according to claim 1, wherein the enucleated oocyte is matured prior to enucleation.
 - 14. The method according to claim 1, wherein the fused nuclear transfer unit is activated by exposure to ionomycin and 6-dimethylaminopurine.
- 15. The method according to claim 3, wherein microinjection is used to insert a heterologous DNA.

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- 16. The method according to claim 3, wherein electroporation is used to insert a heterologous DNA.
- 17. A fetus obtained according to the method of claim 1.
- 5 18. An offspring obtained according to the method of claim 2.
 - 19. Progeny of the offspring according to claim 18.
 - 20. A transgenic fetus obtained according to the method of claim 3.
- 10 21. A transgenic offspring obtained according to the method of claim 4.
 - 22. Progeny of the offspring according to claim 21.
- 23. The method according to claim 1, which further comprises combining the cloned NT unit with a fertilized 15 embryo to produce a chimeric embryo.

- 24. The method according to claim 23, which further comprises developing the fetus to an offspring.
- 25. A fetus obtained according to the method of claim 23.
- 26. An offspring obtained according to the method of claim 24.
 - 27. Progeny of the mammal according to claim 26.
 - 28. A method of producing a CICM cell line, comprising:
- (i) inserting a desired differentiated mammalian cell or cell nucleus into an enucleated mammalian oocyte of the same species as the differentiated cell or cell nucleus, under conditions suitable for the formation of a nuclear transfer (NT) unit;
- (ii) activating the resultant nuclear transfer unit;
 - (iii) culturing said activated nuclear transfer unit until greater than the 2-cell developmental stage; and

- (iv) culturing cells obtained from said cultured NT unit to obtain a CICM cell line.
- 29. A CICM cell line obtained according to the method of claim 28.
- 5 30. The method according to claim 28, wherein a desired DNA is inserted, removed or modified in said differentiated mammalian cell or cell nucleus, thereby resulting in the production of a genetically altered NT unit.
- 31. A transgenic CICM cell line obtained according to claim 30.
 - 32. The method of claim 28, wherein the resultant CICM cell line is induced to differentiate.
- 33. Differentiated cells obtained by the method of 15 claim 32.

- 34. Human differentiated cells obtained by the method of claim 32.
- 35. A method of therapy which comprises

 administering to a patient in need of cell transplantation

 5 therapy isogenic differentiated cells according to claim

 34.
- transplantation therapy is effected to treat a disease or condition selected from the group consisting of Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, Alzheimer's disease,
 ALS, spinal cord defects or injuries, multiple sclerosis,
 muscular dystrophy, cystic fibrosis, liver disease, diabetes, heart disease, cartilage defects or injuries, burns,
 foot ulcers, vascular disease, urinary tract disease, AIDS
 and cancer.
 - 37. A method of therapy which comprises administering to a human patient in need of cell transplantation therapy xenogenic differentiated cells according to claim 33.

- 38. The method according to claim 37 wherein the xenogenic differentiated cells are bovine cells.
- transplantation therapy is effected to treat a disease or condition selected from the group consisting of Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, Alzheimer's disease, ALS, spinal cord defects or injuries, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, cystic fibrosis, liver disease, diabetes, heart disease, cartilage defects or injuries, burns, foot ulcers, vascular disease, urinary tract disease, AIDS and cancer.
 - 40. The method of Claim 35, wherein the differentiated human cells are hematopoietic cells or neural cells.
- 41. The method of Claim 35, wherein the therapy is
 15 for treatment of Parkinson's disease and the differentiated cells are neural cells.

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- 42. The method of Claim 35, wherein the therapy is for the treatment of cancer and the differentiated cells are hematopoietic cells.
- 43. A method of therapy which comprises

 5 administering to a human patient in need of cell

 transplantation therapy xenogenic cells obtained from a

 fetus according to claim 17.
 - 44. The method according to claim 43 wherein the xenogenic cells are bovine cells.
- transplantation therapy is effected to treat a disease or condition selected from the group consisting of Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, Alzheimer's disease, ALS, spinal cord defects or injuries, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, cystic fibrosis, liver disease, diabetes, heart disease, cartilage defects or injuries, burns, foot ulcers, vascular disease, urinary tract disease, AIDS and cancer.

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- 46. A method of therapy which comprises

 administering to a human patient in need of cell

 transplantation therapy xenogenic cells obtained from an

 offspring according to claim 18.
- 5 47. The method according to claim 46 wherein the xenogenic cells are bovine cells.
- transplantation therapy is effected to treat a disease or condition selected from the group consisting of Parkin10 son's disease, Huntington's disease, Alzheimer's disease,
 ALS, spinal cord defects or injuries, multiple sclerosis,
 muscular dystrophy, cystic fibrosis, liver disease, diabetes, heart disease, cartilage defects or injuries, burns,
 foot ulcers, vascular disease, urinary tract disease, AIDS
 15 and cancer.
 - 49. A method of therapy which comprises
 administering to a human patient in need of cell
 transplantation therapy xenogenic transgenic cells
 obtained from a transgenic fetus according to claim 20.

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- 50. The method according to claim 49 wherein the xenogenic transgenic cells are bovine cells.
- transplantation therapy is effected to treat a disease or condition selected from the group consisting of Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, Alzheimer's disease, ALS, spinal cord defects or injuries, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, cystic fibrosis, liver disease, diabetes, heart disease, cartilage defects or injuries, burns, foot ulcers, vascular disease, urinary tract disease, AIDS and cancer.
- 52. A method of therapy which comprises

 administering to a human patient in need of cell

 transplantation therapy xenogenic transgenic cells

 15 obtained from a transgenic offspring according to claim

 21.
 - 53. The method according to claim 52 wherein the xenogenic transgenic cells are bovine cells.

- transplantation therapy is effected to treat a disease or condition selected from the group consisting of Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, Alzheimer's disease, Sals, spinal cord defects or injuries, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, cystic fibrosis, liver disease, diabetes, heart disease, cartilage defects or injuries, burns, foot ulcers, vascular disease, urinary tract disease, AIDS and cancer.
- 10 55. The method according to claim 28, which further comprises combining the cloned NT unit with a fertilized embryo to produce a chimera.
- 56. The method according to claim 55, which further comprises developing the chimeric CICM cell line to a 15 chimeric embryo.
 - 57. A chimeric embryo obtained according to claim 56.

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- 58. The method according to claim 56, which further comprises developing the chimeric embryo to a chimeric fetus.
 - 59. A chimeric fetus obtained according to claim 58.
- 60. The method according to claim 58, which further comprises developing the chimeric fetus to a chimeric offspring.
 - 61. A chimeric offspring obtained according to claim60.
- 10 62. The method according to claim 55, wherein a desired DNA is inserted, removed or modified in said differentiated mammalian cell or cell nucleus, thereby resulting in the production of a genetically altered NT unit.
- 15 63. The method according to claim 62, which further comprises developing the chimeric CICM cell line to a chimeric embryo.

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- 64. A chimeric embryo obtained according to claim63.
- 65. The method according to claim 63, which further comprises developing the chimeric embryo to a chimeric 5 fetus.
 - 66. A chimeric fetus obtained according to claim 65.
- 67. The method according to claim 65, which further comprises developing the chimeric fetus to a chimeric offspring.
- 10 68. A chimeric offspring obtained according to claim 67.
 - 69. A method of cloning a mammal, comprising:
- (i) inserting a desired differentiated CICM cell or cell nucleus into an enucleated mammalian oocyte of the 15 same species as the differentiated CICM cell or cell nucleus, under conditions suitable for the formation of a nuclear transfer (NT) unit;

- (ii) activating the resultant nuclear transfer unit;
- (iii) culturing said activated nuclear transfer unit until greater than the 2-cell developmental stage; and
- (iv) transferring said cultured NT unit to a host 5 mammal such that the NT unit develops into a fetus.
 - 70. The method according to claim 69, which further comprises developing the fetus to an offspring.
 - 71. A fetus obtained according to the method of claim 69.
- 10 72. An offspring obtained according to the method of claim 70.
 - 73. An organ for use as an organ xenograft, which is obtained from the offspring according to claim 18.
- 74. An organ for use as an organ xenograft, which is 15 obtained from the offspring according to claim 21.

- 75. An organ for use as an organ xenograft, which is obtained from the offspring according to claim 26.
- 76. An organ for use as an organ xenograft, which is obtained from the offspring according to claim 68.
- 5 77. An organ for use as an organ xenograft, which is obtained from the offspring according to claim 72.

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(54) Title: NUCLEAR TRANSFER WITH DIFFERENTIATED FETAL AND ADULT DONOR CELLS

(57) Abstract

An improved method of nuclear transfer involving the transplantation of donor differentiated cell nuclei into enucleated oocytes of the same species as the donor cell is provided. The resultant nuclear transfer units are useful for multiplication of genotypes and transgenic genotypes by the production of fetuses and offspring, and for production of isogenic CICM cells, including human isogenic embryonic or stem cells. Production of genetically engineered or transgenic mammalian embryos, fetuses and offspring is facilitated by the present method since the differentiated cell source of the donor nuclei can be genetically modified and clonally propagated.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 6 C12N15/00 A01K A01K67/027 C12N5/06 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 6 AOIK C12N Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category 5 Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. X CAMPBELL K H S ET AL: "SHEEP CLONED BY 1,2,9, NUCLEAR TRANSFER FROM A CULTURED CELL 10,12, LINE" 13,17, NATURE. 18,69-72 vol. 380, no. 6569, 7 March 1996, pages 64-66, XP000605296 cited in the application see the whole document Y 28-33, 55-72 CAMPBELL K H S ET AL: "LIVE LAMBS BY X 1.2.9. NUCLEAR TRANSFER FROM AN ESTABLISHED CELL 10,69-72 LINE" THERIOGENOLOGY, vol. 45, no. 1, 7 January 1996, page 287 XP000605648 Υ see the whole document. 28 - 33, 55-72 -/--X Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the International filling date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention filing date cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another involve an invertive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention citation or other special reason (as specified) cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-"O" document reterring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of theinternational search Date of mailing of the international search report **U** 7. 07. 98 9 June 1998 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentiaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl. Chambonnet, F Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)
This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:
1. X Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Although claims 1-16, 23, 24, 35-54, 63, 65, 67, 69 and 70 are directed to a method of treatment by therapy or surgery practised on the human/animal body, the search has been carried out and based on the alleged effects of the compound/composition.
Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).
Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)
This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
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covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:
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Remark on Protest The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

Information on patent family members

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